1: Jenness--158-159 (1913-16) 1922 Copper Eskimo
116, 584

"No ceremony marks the attainment of puberty by either girls or boys. The first significant event in a boy's life is the killing of his first caribou or seal. His mother usually makes a pair of trousers for herself from the caribou skin; in the case of the seal practically all the meat is cut up and distributed among the other families in the settlement. (2) By either method the parents make public pronouncement that their son has attained the first stage of manhood and has become a productive member of the community. The second significant event in his life, and the first in a girl's, is marriage. Even marriage, however, is marked by little or no ceremony. The contracting parties make their own arrangements, though they are naturally influenced by their parents. If the [159] bride is to be taken to another settlement the bridegroom makes a small payment to her parents; they then give a farewell feast in her honour, and she is led away, weeping because she is leaving her familiar surroundings and going out into a new and unknown world. No payment is made if the new couple intend to remain in the same district; the bridegroom merely sets up his hut or tent and the bride

"2. Cf. Stefansson, Anthrop. Papers, A.M.N.H., Vol. XIV, pt. 1, p. 340."

moves over to it without any ceremony, taking with her a lamp and a few household things. A well-bred maiden should show some reluctance, however willing at heart she may be, and often the bridegroom has to lead her across with a show of force. In 1915 Mr. Wilkins, the photographer of the expedition, was travelling in Coronation gulf with an Alaskan Eskimo named Natkusiak. Natkusiak wanted to take a wife back with him to Banks island, and made overtures for a young girl named Tupik, offering her father and her brother a rifle in payment for taking her away. They gave their sanction to the match as soon as the brother had tested the rifle and found it satisfactory; but at the last moment the father stipulated that Natkusiak should spend the first year in Coronation gulf, on the ground that the girl was too young to be taken so far away from home at once. Natkusiak, however, had to return with Mr. Wilkins the same summer, so the negotiations came to nothing. Natkusiak then made overtures to the relatives of a middle-aged widow named Kaulluak, but no decision was reached. Mr. Wilkins was about to leave the settlement when suddenly Kaulluak's brother appeared and held a short conversation with Natkusiak. A few minutes later the brother walked calmly away with the rifle and a youth was sent to bring out the woman; she came, and at the suggestion of some of the natives took her place in front of the sled and began to run ahead of the dogs, accompanied for a short distance by several of the young men. Mr. Wilkins gives an amusing picture of their farewell. 'They would frequently stop, and one or other of the

youths would grasp Kaulluak round the waist and press his nose against hers.... Our dogs were always on the heels of the people running ahead, and with the frequent stops were getting tangled up, so I told Kaulluak to come and ride on the sled. Here one of the youths sought to engage in a long nose push, but the load of the two of them on the sled was too heavy, so I made them get off. He ran beside for about a quarter of a mile, but soon got tired and dropped behind. Several times during the day she pretended to run away, and Natkusiak had to bring her back with his arm round her waist. They were not very serious attempts, for once when Natkusiak was several miles ahead and she could have escaped had she wished she followed steadily in his trail. She disappeared in the morning, and Natkusiak had to search for an hour before he found her on a small island near the camp. After one or two more pretences at escape the claims of modesty were satisfied and she settled down quite cheerfully as his wife.' In the end, however, she did not go to Banks island, but left Natkusiak and returned to her own people."